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HEALTH EQUITY GUIDE

July 2022



July: World Hepatitis Day (July 28)

This year's Hepatitis Day theme is [Hep Can't Wait](#) and there are several [campaign materials](#) in multiple languages that can be shared.

HHS provides a list of [priority populations](#) for viral hepatitis as part of its National Strategic Plan.

[Biden Administration Announces New Model to Improve Cancer Care for Medicare Patients](#)

The Administration via U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new model aimed at improving cancer care for Medicare patients and lowering health care costs. The model will focus on supporting and learning from cancer patients, caregivers, and cancer survivors, while addressing inequities and providing patients with treatments that address their unique needs.

To support health care transformation, participating providers will also provide Enhanced Services such as patient navigation, care planning, collection of electronic patient-reported outcomes (ePROs), and screening for social needs that may affect treatment. Other elements include requiring participating providers to report patient demographic race, ethnicity, language, gender identity data and requiring providers to share plans on how they will address health equity gaps.

[Life Expectancy In The U.S. Increased Between 2000-2019, But Widespread Gaps Among Racial And Ethnic Groups Exist](#)

While overall life expectancy (2000-2019) in the U.S. has increased by 2.3 years, a new research [study](#) highlights that large and persistent disparities in life expectancy among racial-ethnic groups.

Life expectancy increased for Black populations than any other racial and ethnic group but Native American and Alaska Natives showed an alarming trend and a wider gap. This study highlighted the importance of addressing the root causes of these gaps and eliminate health disparities.

Rural/CAH Corner

[HHS Invests Nearly \\$15 Million to Prevent and Treat Stimulant Use in Rural Communities](#)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) announced nearly \$15 million in funding for rural communities to address psychostimulant misuse and related overdose deaths.

[Out of Reach for Access to Care](#)

This case study provides an example of a Colorado non-profit that provides behavioral health transportation and coordinated care with first responders as well as local organizations, e.g., churches, schools, social services agencies.

In the News

[Understanding Neighborhood, Redlining as Social Determinants of Health](#)

Healthy People 2030 notes that neighborhoods can be an expansive social determinant of health making them a complex priority for patient wellbeing. Neighborhoods encapsulate the built environment, green space, transportation, and other structural components that affect health. In addition, neighborhood violence, food security and geographic barriers of care are also key public health factors. The article notes a [recent study](#) on how redlining has been linked to poor asthma outcomes and racial disparities.

[Research to Move Policy — Using Evidence to Advance Health Equity for Substance Use Disorders](#)

This NEJM article highlights the potential areas for improvement to address racial and ethnic disparities in treatment access and outcomes among patients with substance use disorders. The strategies include enhancing provision of treatment via telehealth models, pharmacies, and other collaborative-care models; addressing social determinants of health; implementing preventative interventions; and supporting data collection and modelling.

[Striving Towards Health Equity: Understanding the Impact of Discrimination on LGBTQ+ Communities](#)

This blog post by the director of National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities discusses health disparities that affect LGBTQ+ communities e.g., substance use disorders as well as some of the barriers to their health and wellbeing e.g., tobacco use. He highlights the importance of [SOGI data collection](#) to better track health outcomes and create tailored strategies to address disparities.

[ACAP Shares Health Equity Goals for Safety Net Health Plans](#)

The Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) highlight the importance of community and safety net health plans to advance health equity. It will use three approaches captured in a [report](#):

- 1) a commitment of listening and learning,
- 2) support efforts to improve data collection,
- 3) endorse policies to boost health equity.



For more health equity news: <https://qi.ipro.org/health-equity-resources/>

Upcoming Events

[Health Equity Organizational Assessment \(HEOA\) Knowledge Builders Series](#)

IPRO

Date: May 19 – Aug 4

Time: 12:00 – 12:30 PM ET

[Leveraging Data-Driven Advanced Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Technologies to Address Social and Behavioral Determinants for Health Equity](#)

NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Date: July 19

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

[Moving Cancer Moonshot Forward by Connecting More States, Health Systems, Sectors, and Communities to Improve Health Equity, Access and Outcomes](#)

SelfMade Health

Date: July 20

Time: 12:30 – 1:30 PM ET